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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

REVIEWS.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA : A STUDY OF ANNEXATION. A dissertation in part fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Political Science, Columbia College. By WILLIAM BENFORD AITKEN, M.A. New York, 1890.

THIS monograph of one hundred and six pages consists of five chapters and a bibliography. The five chapters are entitled: Historical, Ethnical, Geographical, Legal and Industrial, Political.

The author professes to treat his subject according to the historical, comparative, and statistical methods. Of the three, he has employed the first most successfully, and the amount of history incorporated in the book is rather out of proportion to the size of the volume.

In the first chapter the author gives a very readable and accurate account of the discovery and settlement of Canada, pointing out very emphatically the influence of the Jesuits in colonization and their missionary activity among the Indians.

In the second chapter a contrast is drawn between the Teutonic and Romance races, illustrated by a somewhat vague comparison of the French Canadians with the English colonists in New England. The author describes the growth of the peculiar French-Indian dialects, and discusses briefly the problem of the relative increase of French and English. He expresses the opinion that the very large number of births among the French is more than overbalanced by the large migration from the British Isles and the United States. We find in the same chapter a detailed

summary of the different racial elements which compose the population, and a discussion of the motives and work of the Jesuits, of the relative importance of the different religious classes, of the relations of Church and State to each other and to education. The progress of the provinces in the establishment of common schools and universities, the prevalence of separate schools for Catholics and Protestants, the preponderance of the Catholics in the Province of Quebec, the extent to which religious prejudices influence the solution of all educational, political, and social problems: all these are discussed and compared with our own views and institutions.

We have in the third chapter a cursory account of the topography, climate, and products of each of the provinces; also a review of the history of the fisheries, and of the various treaties and conventions with the United States. The value of the cod and seal fisheries to us he seems not to have appreciated. The wonderful agricultural and commercial future in store for the great Northwest territories is stated quite forcibly, but it may be questioned whether enough importance is ascribed to the remarkable influence a great and prosperous population in the Northwest would have upon the petty jealousies and provincialisms of the older provinces.

The fourth chapter deals briefly with the sources and administrative provisions of the laws; discusses the extradition treaty with the United States, the currency, banks, post office, public debt, and taxation. Statistics are furnished bearing upon the extent and character of domestic and foreign commerce.

The last chapter contains a sketch of the constitutional history and the movements for independence and annexation. This is followed by an analysis of the present constitution and government, including a not altogether satisfactory comparison with our own Constitution and government.

Mr. Aitken thinks that there are but three alternatives

open to Canada if she discards her present government: 1. Imperial federation. 2. Independence and a new American Republic. 3. Annexation. The description of the first is perhaps as precise as the vague ideas of its advocates will permit. Beyond a certain optimistic view, the author does not venture to decide upon the probability or practicability of the adoption of this grand scheme. He leaves the reader to suppose that it is advocated more as a weapon to ward off annexation than because it possesses any assurance of successful operation. A very clear statement is given of the position occupied by the leading political parties with regard to the question of political independence. We are told that the "ethnic and religious differences retard the growth of independence and act as a drawback to annexation, for annexation is not likely to take place until after independence." The question of annexation is treated from the historical and legal standpoint rather than from the political or social. Annexation is a consummation which the author evidently would neither deplore nor enthusiastically welcome.

The monograph is inclined to be too cyclopædic, and not sufficiently broad and liberal in treatment. But slight attention is paid to the social side of the question—the habits, customs, and traits of the two peoples. No attempt is made to portray the prevailing political views and the drift of public opinion. Despite this and an occasional ambiguity and triteness in statement, the monograph will be acceptable to those who wish in a short space to obtain a comprehensive view of the historical and comparative bearings of the question.

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